

### REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed this Application in light of the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed August 16, 2006. Claims 2-14 are pending in this Application. Claim 1 was previously cancelled by Applicants without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-14 are subject to the election or restriction requirement.

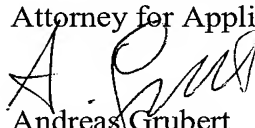
Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Group I, Claims 2, 3 and 7, drawn to a method of making a compensation collar. Claims 4-6 and 8-14 are hereby withdrawn from consideration without prejudice or disclaimer and is subject to the filing of a divisional application thereon.

### CONCLUSION

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful review of the application. Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for examination and allowance. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of elected claims.

Applicants believe no fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney, Andreas Grubert, at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: October 16, 2006

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